

REMARKS

This paper is submitted in reply to the Decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, which affirmed the Examiner's rejections in part. In particular, in the Decision, the Board reversed the Examiner's rejections of claims 17-19, 27, 48, 50-51, and 53-57. Considering also the Examiner's previous indication of allowability with respect to claims 1-13, 20, 23, 38, 49, 52, and 60-66, at present, only claims 14-16, 21-22, and 24-26 remain rejected by the Examiner.

As the Examiner will note, rejected claim 14 has now been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 20, which was previously found to be directed to allowable subject matter by the Examiner. Furthermore, claim 20 was cancelled without prejudice. In addition, the remaining two rejected independent claims (claims 24 and 25) have been amended in a similar manner to claim 14, and now incorporate the subject matter of objected-to claim 20. Given that each of claims 14, 24 and 25 now recite subject matter found to be allowable by the Examiner, reconsideration and allowance of each of these claims, as well as of claims 15-19, 21-23, and 26 which depend therefrom, are respectfully requested.

The Examiner will also note that Applicants have amended claim 54 to correct an inadvertent error in dependency. This error was brought to Applicants' attention by the Board in the Decision, specifically in footnote 1 set forth at page 9 thereof.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments made herein do not raise any new issues, and thus are properly entered by the Examiner at this stage of prosecution. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims as currently amended are allowable over the prior art of record. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

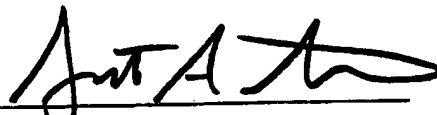
In summary, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are novel and non-obvious over the prior art of record. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the foregoing, or which might otherwise further this case onto allowance, the Examiner may contact the undersigned at (513) 241-2324. Moreover, if any other charges or credits

are necessary to complete this communication, please apply them to Deposit Account 23-3000.

28 SEP 2004

Date

Respectfully submitted,



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